



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

## City Celebrates African American History Month with Exhibit, Events & Proclamation

**Gaithersburg, MD (January 24, 2020)** An art exhibit, lecture, programs, and an official proclamation highlight the City of Gaithersburg's celebration of [African American History Month](#).

### ***Building Bridges: Connecting Our Global Roots***

#### ***Magruder Murray: African American History Month***

The City of Gaithersburg presents "Building Bridges: Connecting Our Global Roots," an exhibit highlighting the international diversity of our City, and the works of Magruder Murray in honor of African American History Month. Gaithersburg is the second most ethno-racially and linguistically diverse city in America. This exhibit, on display through March 30 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, celebrates and explores how one's personal roots and heritage may or may not impact and influence the creative process. The public is invited to meet the artists and learn more about their creative process during a free Artists Reception on Thursday, January 30 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

### ***Official Proclamation by the Mayor & City Council***

A formal proclamation designating February 2020 as "African American History Month" in the City of Gaithersburg will be presented during the Mayor and City Council meeting at City Hall on Monday, February 3. Washington Nsangou, Vice Chairperson of the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC), will receive the proclamation. MAC promotes understanding, respect and appreciation of the many cultures in the City, heightening awareness of our similarities and differences in order to improve interactions between and among members of these various cultural communities.

### ***Black History at the Museum***

Stop by the Community Museum on Saturday, February 15, to watch *The Quince Orchard Project*, a documentary about the historic Quince Orchard community, and stay to make a book about Harriet Tubman. The film will be shown at 10:30 a.m., Noon, and 1:30 p.m. Kisha Davis, a principal in the making of *The Quince Orchard Project*, will be at the Museum from 11 a.m. to Noon to provide additional background and answer questions. This is a free event.

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## **2 – 2 – 2/African American History Month**

### **Celebrating Misty Copeland – *A Ballerina's Tale***

Celebrate Misty Copeland, the first female African American Principal Dancer with the American Ballet Theatre, on Saturday, February 22 at Casey Community Center. The event begins at 1:30 p.m. with a screening of *A Ballerina's Tale*, the moving documentary about Copeland's life and experience as she makes history in the world of ballet. Following the film, visit the Dance Studio for a sample ballet class with lead barre work and demonstrations by a professional ballet instructor. While *A Ballerina's Tale* is not rated, it is recommended for ages nine and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register online [here](#).

### **American Minority Veterans Research Project presented by Dr. Elwood Gray**

Learn about the efforts of Dr. Elwood Gray as he strives to uncover, document and celebrate the accomplishments of minority veterans across our country. The discussion takes place on Tuesday, February 25 at 1 p.m. at the Benjamin Gaither Center. The lecture is free and open to the public.

### **Tasty Books: *Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie***

Farm to table cooking and the use of fresh, seasonal ingredients are values that are celebrated in today's culinary world. Someone championed these values long before they became trendy. Edna Lewis helped shape our views of Southern cooking during a time when being a female chef, let alone an African American female chef, was rare. Celebrate this pioneer with the children's book *Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie* on Saturday, February 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Casey Community Center. The story comes to life as it is read aloud and then explored through related craft and snack-making activities. Register online [here](#).

Celebrated annually in the United States during the month of February, African American History Month was started in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He sought to bring national attention to the important contributions African Americans made to the history of the United States. Woodson chose February because it includes the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes and Abraham Lincoln.

For more information about the Multicultural Affairs Committee and these activities, visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).